Transporter
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Commissioner Lettiere named AASHTO veep

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) named Commissioner Jack Lettiere vice president at its 90th annual meeting in Philadelphia in September. By tradition, the AASHTO vice president is also considered president-elect for the following year.

"I am honored by this appointment," said Lettiere. "I see it as an opportunity to advocate at the highest level for New Jersey's transportation priorities and for the transportation priorities of the nation."

"Federal funding is critical to every state's transportation needs, "said Lettiere." I look forward to working with transportation leaders throughout the country to ensure federal funding is maximized through the upcoming reauthorization."

In addition to his 30 years at NJDOT, Commissioner since 2002 and former Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of Capital Investment, Lettiere is no stranger to AASHTO.

He serves as Chairman of AASHTO's Administrative Subcommittee on Transportation Finance and as Region 1 Representative of the AASHTO Strategic Plan Task Force.

Lettiere is a member and vice chair of the AASHTO Working Group on Financial Issues that developed Association proposals for the reauthorization of the federal highway and transportation program.

He also serves on the AASHTO Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.

AASHTO, as a nonprofit, nonpartisan group that represents state transportation departments in the United States, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, fosters the development, operation and maintenance of an integrated national transportation system. It also focuses on the reauthorization of federal transportation funding that provides billions for road and mass transportation projects to states.

Newly-named AASHTO Vice President Jack Lettiere is in good company as he cuts into a cake with past presidents John Clements of New Hampshire, John Njord of Utah and J. Bryan Nicol of Indiana. John Horsley, at the podium, is AASHTO's Executive Director.

NJDOT employees take Memorial personally

Everyone is on a personal journey. For many NJDOT employees, a visit to the Employee Memorial at Headquarters signifies a stop on that journey.

Some enjoy the camaraderie of others at the special events; some enjoy solitary, quiet moments at the Memorial; and some give of their time as committee members to work on events or on the grounds. These were the latest events:

- On Friday, September 10, 2004, employees gathered at the Employee Memorial to hold its annual Remembrance Ceremony to commemorate the third anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States and the fourth anniversary of the Memorial and to honor the military.
- On Friday, September 24, more than 100 friends, family members and colleagues of **Jeff Prokolyshen**, a former Central Region operations employee who recently passed away, gathered to reflect on his life and career at the Department.
- On Tuesday, October 5, employees, family and friends gathered to remember **Guy LoBue**, NJDOT retiree, for his contributrions to the NJDOT, the Credit Union and the DOT Retirees Association. LoBue was on the steering committee to build the memorial.

About 9/11 Commissioner Jack Lettiere said: "Let us all pay homage to the memory of our friends, public service employees, neighbors and fellow citizens who lost their lives on that terrible day by making the most of our lives today, and by doing all that we can to make a positive mark during our time here on earth."

Central Region Director **Bernard James** memorialized the contributions Jeff Prokolyshen, "We become known as the 'face of the Department'. Jeff was a model field supervisor who not only was concerned about his crew members, but was also ready to assist a stranded motorist. He was the 'face' that would have all of us proud to be a part of the NJDOT family."

"Guy [LoBue] cared about the institution and the employees who worked here," said Deputy Commissioner **James Snyder**.

The Memorial was conceived in July 1999 after the tragic death of Louis Caruso who was killed on Route 22. Employees wanted a memorial site to honor employees who died while performing their work duties. But it has come to mean even more.

For information about the Memorial, contact any of the following members of the Committee: **John Spedding, John Stults, Kate Immordino, Meg Frampton, Alk Brenner, Mike DeAngelo, Clint Griggs, Karen Weber, Dennis Meszaros, Maryanne Massey, Frank Bocchini, Mary Bock, Nancy Ciaruffoli, Paul Gentles, Janice DeJohn, Leon Fulginiti, Dave Kook, Erin Nelson, Dick Hobson** and **Dolores Murphy**.

It takes a crew and more to fix a trouble spot

Trouble spots in New Jersey's roadways cause delays, which in turn cause frustration on the part of the motorists. It's the job of NJDOT Operations to eliminate these problems.

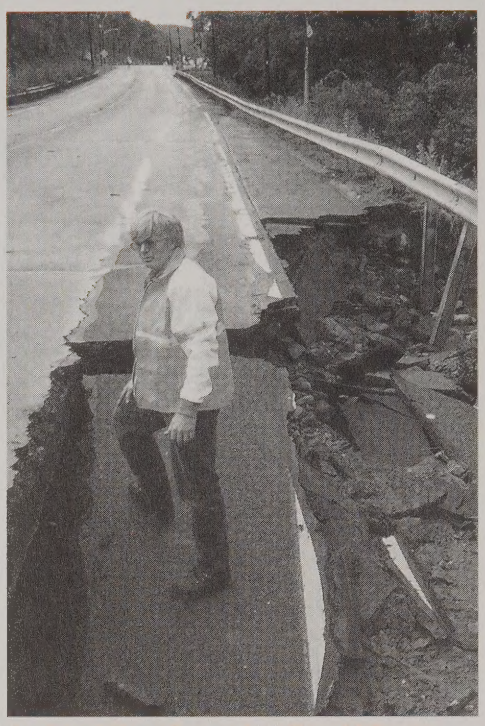
"Operations is responsible for maintaining the roadway network for motorists, but sometimes it is more complicated than just fixing a pothole or maintaining a traffic signal," said Executive Assistant **Bill Kingsland** of Region South Operations.

Kingsland says that it also requires a comprehensive, coordinated approach to monitoring the conditions on the roads, responding to problems as they occur, using all of the resources available to minimize the impact to the motorists. Many times this requires the efforts of multiple groups, inside and outside NJDOT.

Case in point was the road-buckling incident in the spring on I-295 north, near Route 47. Emergency Service Patrol Assistant Crew Supervisor **Alan Roberts** discovered a joint between two concrete slabs on the roadway had buckled and needed repair.

"Because of the severe condition, I called the Central Dispatch Unit (CDU) at 5:15 p.m. to contact Maintenance about the situation," said Roberts. "The slab was up about six or eight inches and could have caused an accident."

When Assistant Crew Supervisor **Ray Bowles**, Bordentown Crew 430, received the call, he immediately notified the Area Supervisor **Joe Bauer**, who went to the scene and confirmed the pavement needed immediate replacement.



Assistant Crew Supervisor Ronald Sperry stands on a collapsed section of Route 46 in Knowlton Township, Warren County.

At 7 p.m. Bauer closed the left and center lanes of the roadway, and directed Bowles to assemble the crew and make the repairs.

While Bowles was handling the repair aspect, **Mike Sickels**, Shift Supervisor at CDU, got the word out to the motorists. He uses several communications outlets: radio traffic, the Internet, variable message signs and highway advisory radio.

"Bauer contacted me and we worked out a plan to get the job done so that the center lane could be reopened for the morning rush hour." said **Rich Balgowan**, Regional Maintenance Engineer. "We reached out to other crews for assistance, and work began after a rain delay, at 10 p.m."

At midnight the crews moved the first slab. Sickels and **Ashok Patel** of Maintenance Engineering called other work sites for materials. At 1:30 a.m. the first slab was removed and work was begun on the second. By 3:15 a.m. the asphalt arrived and was placed in four lifts. The work was completed by 4:30 a.m. After cooling down the repair, all lanes reopened at 6:15 a.m.

"These responses and the teamwork associated with it are becoming the norm within Operations," said Kingsland.

According to Bowles, "This kind of job gives us an opportunity to show what we can do. Everyone did a great job!"

Other employees on the job included Crew 430 members **Pete Lodge**, **Maurice Owens**, **Jack Hancock**, **Steve Irons**, **Ray Sciscio** and **Dan Welsh**; Crew 413 for the light towers, **Wally Merchant**, **Frank Exler**, and **Mike Slusarski**; Crew 468 for the concrete saw and manpower, **Don Buckley**, **Art Muff**, **Dennis Higgins** and **Jeff Sheeder** and Area Supervisor **Don Bourne** (Crew 413).

Milestones

Lyszcek reports Intelligent Transportation Systems change

Then Assistant Commissioner of Operations **Chester J. Lyszcek** announced that the Bureau of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) has been be reestablished within the Division of Traffic Operations. **Tim Herilihy** is the ITS Manager.

"The bureau will provide technical support for ITS initiatives in planning and scope development," said Lyszcek. "It includes integrated traffic signal systems, incident management systems and traffic management systems."

Snyder announces Senior Executive Service promotions

Deputy Director **Jim Snyder** announced Senior Executive Service promotions effective July 1. "Each of these four individuals has demonstrated outstanding leadership within their respective areas of the Department," said Snyder.

Richard Dunne, P.E., was promoted to Special Assistant to the Commissioner for the Capital Program Coordination. The 23-year NJDOT veteran will bring together those involved in the capital program, facilitate their interaction and ensure delivery.

The licensed professional engineer previously served as Director of the Division of Design Services and State Transportation Engineer.

It's a double promotion for **Brian J. Strizki**, P.E., who, with his promotion to Director of the Division of Design Services will also take on the duties of the State Transportation Engineer. Strizki was formerly the Director of Quality Management Services and Deputy State Transportation Engineer.

Lynn Rich, who as Program Manager in Capital Program Management was responsible for expediting Pipeline III and IV projects as well as all state highway

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People Briefs

Blue Ribbons

NJDOT employees deserve special recognition for extra effort. Here are some examples.

North Region: Gahwyler, Gabriel, Martinez think fast

Call it intuition or an automatic response, but Incident Management Response Team (IMRT) member **John Gahwyler** and Technician 1 **Maged Gabriel** of Traffic Ops knew just how to respond in two different situations.

On a wintry Wednesday morning during rush hour a truck overturned on the ramp from I-287 N to I-80 W in Morris County. Executive Assistant II Gahwyler worked with the State Police to remove the truck and its 40,000 pounds of mulch. And to get the traffic moving, he asked Maintenance Crew 225 to set up safety devices and a detour and salt the ramp.

On a spring evening, Gabriel received a complaint from a citizen who heard an unusually loud sound every time a vehicle drove on a section of the Route 21 overpass in Newark. Wasting no time, Gabriel asked **Moises Martinez**, an Engineering Technician with maintenance experience, to take a look at that section of roadway on his way home.

After Moises told him the roadway moved when a vehicle drove on it, Gabriel requested an engineering evaluation. Area Maintenance Supervisor **Joe Austin** and Crew 226 verified the emergency nature of the situation and resolved the problem.

Headquarters: Gephart and Haynes respond to needs

CPM Principal Engineer **Nicholas C. Gephart** and Community Relations Secretarial Assistant **Barbara Haynes** make a difference.

Gephart and the Pavement Management and Technology section were testing anti-icing materials on Route 29 on a late winter's day when they discovered a motorist, cold and hurt, in a vehicle that had slid into a tree. They stayed with the driver, who sustained leg injuries in the crash, until the Hopewell Police (Mercer County) arrived.

Secretarial Assistant **Barbara Haynes** organized fellow NJDOTers to provide school supplies and clothing in backpacks to 21 homeless and needy children in Mercer County this fall.

Haynes received kudos from Connie Mercer, Executive Director of Homefront, an organization dedicated to help families break the cycle of poverty.

"It is an enormous logistical effort to pair individual students, identifying sizes and special needs, with donors in the community," Mercer said. "However, the appreciation on the part of the students . . . makes it all worthwhile."

Central Region: Crews join to manage spill

Captain Gregory J. McNally of the Stafford Township Office of Emergency Management has only praise for the abilities of Executive Assistant 2 **Mike Moran** and his abilities as a team leader to avert a potential environmental disaster.

An overturned kerosene tanker on Route 72 created a potentially dangerous environmental situation. By organizing a team that included **Ken Morse**, Supervisor of all crews in Central Region and the members of Crews 323, 327, 333, 334 and Traffic Operations South, the cleanup proceeded without incident.

Team members were **Paul Fenn, Michael Antos, Paul Lechmanick, John Carrington, Jeff Gourley, Guy Matthews, Jim Nunn, Stanley Dombrowski, Mike Syanovitz, Vincent Hagen, Herman Pharo, Gill Dilks, Leo Denlea, Steve Mongiovi, Charles Patton, Neil Billmann, Mike Sickels** and **Ronald Roberts**.

South Region: Scoleri saves toddler

A three-year-old in southern New Jersey is lucky that **Dante Scoleri** decided to take his five year old son to a different lake.

The Emergency Service Patrol Driver in South Region changed his mind at the last minute and took his five-year-old son to Garrison Lake instead of Franklin Lake. As they played in the water near the dock, Scoleri looked down and saw a blond, blue-eyed child looking up at him from the bottom of the lake.

"I grabbed him and when I put him over my arm, he threw up water right away," Scoleri said.

Because of Scoleri's quick action, the child required no further medical attention or CPR. Scoleri is a member of the Fortescue Fire Rescue Dive Team.

Dante Scoleri

Obituaries

Retiree **John Hyland L. Smith** died June 19 in Trenton. During his tenure at NJDOT, the Sr. Cost Accountant implemented an equipment cost system later used as a prototype by the Federal Highway Administration. Survivors include his son Mark, his daughter Andrea Sirak and grandchildren.

Central Region Area Supervisor, Maintenance, **Jeffrey Prokolyshen** died July 19 in Flemington. His father Tony and wife Maria, his sister Toni Gentry, and his brother Howard survive him.

Retiree **Paul W. Pearson** died July 21 in Long Branch. His wife Victoria, daughters Kathryn Poland and Margaret Palmer and grandchildren survive the U.S. Navy veteran of World War II.

Retiree **Mary Jane Ford** of Bucks County died July 26. Her son William T., sister Patricia Townsend and nieces and nephews survive her.

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Annual golf outings list winners

Survey South's Matt Abbott, Chris Otoni, Joe Langer and John Chalmers won the "gold" at this year's NJDOT Golf Outing.

Central Region, June

The Spring Meadow Gold Course in Allaire was the setting for Central Region's tourney. These were the winners:

- Region North, low gross score/regional champion: **Bob Guerin**;
- Central Region, longest drive, front 9: **Frank Stewart**;
- Central Region, closest to the pin, front 9: **Bill Goselin**;
- Region North, longest drive, back 9: **John Ruffino**;
- Capital Program Safety, closest to the pin, back 9: **Jim Mesinger**.

NJDOT Outing, September

Award winners in the September golf event held this year at Cream Ridge Golf Club in Upper Freehold Township were:

- Championship: Survey South: **Chris Otani**, **John Chalmers**, **Matt Abbott** and **Joe Langer** (12 under par 59 scratch; one off the record);
- Second place: Safety Pins Plus 1: **John Semler**, **Aldo Genovesi**, **Gary Stout** and **Jay Walker** (12 under par 59, modified Callaway system on match of car with two other teams);
- Closest to the pin 4th hole: **Sue Hattman**, **Phil Baratta**;
- Longest drive 9th hole driver: **Paula Lavallee**, **Ken Afferton**;
- Straightest drive 11th hole: **Judi Parrish**, **Gene Blasko**;
- Closest to the pin 17th hole: **Eileen Fitzpatrick**, **Bill Carter**;
- Circle of Gold 2nd hole: **Bob Galinat**;
- 50/50 winner: **Judy Semler**.

For information on next year's events, please contact **John Shikolukat** (732) 308-4076 for Central Region, or **Howard Immordino** at (609) 530-2868 for the September outing.

Milestones Continued from page 2

projects in upper Middlesex, Somerset and Morris counties, has been named Director of the division of Quality Management Services.

The 24-year NJDOT veteran received special recognition in 1990 when she was named Departmental Employee of the Year.

The Department's $500 million Capital Program will be foremost on **Rick Hammer**'s agenda as he takes on the responsibilities and challenges as the newly appointed Director of the Division of Capital Program Management. His previous NJDOT experience has prepared him for the job.

As Program Manager for six southern New Jersey counties and major bridge projects in Middlesex and Hudson counties, Hammer and his group delivered a significant portion of the last three capital programs.

A charter member of the Succession Planning Leadership pool since 2002, Hammer also worked on several significant projects including the Route 1/Meadow Road, the I-95/Scotch Road and the I-95/Route 31 interchanges.